DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 432 802 SA 029 944

AUTHOR Hassel, Bryan C.
TITLE The Charter School Challenge: Avoiding the Pitfalls, Fulfilling the Promise.
INSTITUTION Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.
ISBN ISBN-0-8157-3512-X
PUB DATE 1999-00-00
NOTE 193p.
AVAILABLE FROM Brookings Institution Press Bookstore, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036-2188 (hardcover: ISBN 0-8157-3512-X, $39.95; paperback: ISBN 0-8157-3511-1, $16.95); Tel: 800-275-1447 (Toll Free); Fax: 202-797-6004; Web site: http://www.brookings.edu
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Evaluative (142)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Charter Schools; Educational Assessment; Educational Change; *Educational Legislation; Elementary Secondary Education; Institutional Autonomy; National Surveys; Political Influences; Politics of Education; *State Legislation
IDENTIFIERS Colorado; Georgia; Massachusetts; Michigan

ABSTRACT

This book examines charter-school legislation in the United States, as well as charter-school operations in Colorado, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Georgia. It reviews the legislative process in these four states, focusing on the compromises forged as lawmakers worked for adoption. It describes whether the states' resulting programs provide sufficient autonomy, resources, and potential to influence the broader education system. Following an introduction that outlines the promises and pitfalls of charter schools, the text is divided into three sections. Part 1, "The Politics of Charter School Programs," includes an overview of charter-school politics and provides details on compromises reached in the four states. Part 2 looks at charter-school programs in practice, whereas part 3 offers information on fulfilling the promise of charter schools. States under Republican control were more likely to pass strong charter laws than those where Democrats ruled. The text concludes that if states want to give charter schools a full test, they should empower nonlocal entities to approve charter schools, establish the schools as distinct local entities, allow full per-pupil funding to go with students to the charter schools, and impose minimal constraints on the source and number of charter schools. (Contains an index.) (RJM)

**********
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
**********